

L'heure avec Rosa: Telling the Time in French

Learning objective: To be able to tell the time in French, focusing on o'clock, half-past, and quarter-past.

Read the passage carefully, use the word bank to help you translate the times, and answer the questions below. Remember, Rosa the parrot loves to sing her lessons, so say the phrases out loud!

Rosa the parrot is preparing for her jungle forest party. She loves to keep her schedule perfectly organised. 'Il est une heure pile,' she squawks, checking her watch as the sun rises. When the butterflies arrive, it is 'Il est deux heures et quart.' By the time the monkeys join for lunch, it is 'Il est midi et demie.' Rosa is very clever because she knows that 'midi' means midday and 'minuit' means midnight. She enjoys teaching her friends that telling the time is just like solving a rhythmic puzzle in the sky.

Word bank: Quelle heure est-il? (What time is it?) · Il est... (It is...) · une heure (one o'clock) · et quart (quarter past) · et demie (half past) · pile (o'clock)

1. If Rosa says 'Il est trois heures pile', what time is it in English? Explain how you worked this out using the word bank. (2 marks)

2. Rosa tells her friends 'Il est quatre heures et quart.' Write this time in English and justify why we use the phrase 'et quart'. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the phrases 'et quart' and 'et demie'. How do they change the meaning of the time? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if Rosa confused the word 'midi' with 'minuit'? Explain the potential consequences for her jungle party. (3 marks)

5. If a cake costs £4.50 and the party starts at 'cinq heures et demie' (5:30), write the time in digits and calculate how many 50p coins you would need to pay for the cake. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a large clock face for Rosa's party. Show the time at 'six heures et demie' by drawing the hands in the correct positions and labelling it with the French phrase.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a day out with Rosa. Write a short itinerary in French for three different activities throughout the day, including the time for each using the structures you have learned today. Justify why you chose those specific times for your activities.